STORAGE

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Woman's Occupation Number

FOR CALIFORNIA

A WOMAN'S PROFIT-YIELDING POULTRY FARM
MRS. O. H. BURBRIDGE

A WOMAN'S TRIUMPH ON A RANCH
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BEE-KEEPING FOR WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA
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WHY THE CALIFORNIA GIRL EXCELS IN SIZE AND STRENGTH
PROF. W. E. MAGEE

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THE CALIFORNIA PROMOTION COMMITTEE

SAN FRANCISCO

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(THE STATE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION)

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FOR CALIFORNIA

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

"FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE THE BEST THERE IS IN LIFE."

Vol. II. No. 11. OCTOBER, 1905.

THE CALIFORNIA PROMOTION COMMITTEE

25 NEW MONTGOMERY STREET

SAN FRANCISCO

THE JOY OF OUT-DOOR WORK IN CALIFORNIA.

THIS PICTURE SHOWS ONE OF THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS AMONG HER POULTRY, AND WELL ILLUSTRATES THE HEALTHFUL NATURE OF OUT-DOOR OCCUPATIONS IN CALIFORNIA.

THE ARTICLES WHICH FOLLOW ARE A FEW OF THE MANY EXPERIENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THE CALIFORNIA PROMOTION COMMITTEE BY ENTHUSIASTIC WORKERS—WOMEN WHO DO THINGS.

A Great Profit-Yielding Poultry Farm Conducted by a Woman.

MRS. O. H. BURBRIDGE.

CALIFORNIA imports each year from the middle west hundreds of carloads of eggs and dressed poultry, for which high prices are obtained in the markets. Why we should not only supply our home demand but also send hundreds of carloads from this State to the East each year has been a source of wonder to me ever since I engaged in poultry raising. The prices of dressed poultry and eggs for market use are always so high that the man who does not care for fancy birds can always make a good living furnishing hotels and private families with stock.

I have established on my ranch in Los Angeles a fatting plant on which the birds are fed according to the method used in England, where they are placed in long rows of crates four or five birds to the crate and fed twice a day in troughs placed in front of the crates. For the first week I use the best oat flour and sour milk made into a mash and gradually thinned so that the food is like thick gruel by the end of the fatting period. This time varies according to the stock, a Mediterranean taking a week or more longer than the American, English or Asiatic classes. For this fatted stock I have never received under thirty cents per pound, and in some seasons of the year as much as forty-five cents. This year one of the largest restaurants in Los Angeles has offered me fifty cents per pound the year round for Orpington Ranch capons. The egg market has always been very steady and prices have been high so that a good profit can be realized on eggs alone, by selling off the young cockerels and saving the pullets each year just for market eggs.

So many inquiries come to me as to poultry raising in California indicating that a false notion exists among many Eastern and Northern breeders as to the ravages of roup and lice. According to many of the inquiries this part of the United States is referred to as being visited by these two evils. I have raised thousands of chickens myself, taking all of the care of them from the egg to the mature fowl, and have had no trouble with roup whatever. True I have had sanitary surroundings, clean yards, plenty of fresh, cool water for my birds and well ventilated, draughtless sleeping quarters. I have found that with due care the lice are no worse than in any other section, but the watchword of the poultry raiser from the time the egg is entrusted to the incubator or hen until the bird is ready for the table, breeding pen or show room, should be "cleanliness." By that I mean no lice, clean straw to scratch in, clean water to drink, clean houses so no foul odors can disturb the good the day has brought. This habit of cleanliness is easy to establish on a ranch when the work is done systematically, but a poultry raiser cannot do part of the work one day, nothing the second and catch up on the third. It is necessary each day to do for the comfort of the flock all these little things and the hen is a most grateful creature, repaying kindness by filling the egg basket and incidentally one's pockets.

I started with a trio of Buff Orpingtons, after a trial of several other breeds, and when I found the chicks were so easy to raise and so sturdy, I purchased eggs from several of the large Eastern and English breeding farms, so my first year I went into the show room with a fine lot of stock. I took three silver cups and over one hundred ribbons on an entry of thirty birds in two shows, and then started to work in earnest to build up the strains I had. I was able to supply a great number of settings of eggs to my fellow fanciers at good prices, and my second year saw me start the breeding season with twelve hundred fine birds without a cull in the lot. I had the eggs booked in early January for the remainder of the season and had many orders for breeding stock that I was not able to supply on account of the egg orders. I have always purchased a fine breeder in England or

America whenever I was able to get just what I wanted, regardless of the price, and I never lost money in doing so, for the big Eastern breeders have engaged eggs of a famous winner from me before I saw the bird myself, and I have always had a steady sale for my best at all times in California.

My experience in raising poultry has been to me a most interesting one. From the very first I have taken not only a keen interest but a great delight as well in this work. It has been this joy in the work that has prompted me to build up my ranch from a very modest beginning to the big specialty ranch it is now. I now have one hundred breeding pens and my fattening plant has a capacity of 5,000 birds every three weeks. How my efforts have borne fruit you may guess, when I tell you that this extensive establishment has grown up from my modest beginning with three chickens. it has proved not only pleasant but profitable and my zeal has kept pace with my experience and understanding of the business.

I take a keen delight in conducting my business, and it is not from necessity but from choice that I myself buy all the supplies, hire the needed help, superintend the construction of new buildings, attend to the mixing of grains and the grinding of feed, prepare my own remedies for sick fowls and treat them when ill. All this fills in a busy life—a life in which these healthful pursuits carried on mostly out of doors are the greatest charm as well as a source of profit, yielding me a clear gain of $5000 in only fifteen months.

A Woman's Triumph On a Ranch.

MRS. E. P. BUCKINGHAM.

SOME months ago, in response to repeated requests from various persons, I told in a former number of this magazine, "How I came to be a fruit-grower." Since then I have been asked to say something regarding my experience after acquiring my land and planting my trees. In the former article I closed with the statement that I commenced with the intention of planting twenty acres, but, carried on by my growing enthusiasm, I did not stop until one hundred and forty acres were covered with trees and vines.

After the land was bought and there was no retreat a reaction began. I would go and look at the great field where nothing was to be seen on the brown earth but some short sticks not as high as my knee, without a single leaf, then go home and toss and turn hour after hour at night, possessed by the thought that I had done a most unwise thing. If I slept, I dreamed of endless rows of tiny black twigs that would stand there year after year, silent witnesses to the folly of a woman who had wandered from her sphere and was being justly punished for it. When the rain fell and the warm sun began to shine again and the buds to swell, and finally when the tiny black twigs were covered with tender glistening leaves, my delight and pride were boundless, and I forgot my former doubts and despondency.

I found kind neighbors who were willing to instruct me, but lack of confidence made me afraid to undertake the cultivation of the ground and care of the trees and I engaged a superintendent. He was six feet eight inches tall and I think I must have decided he would save me in step ladders when I might need them for fruit picking. My little trees had been planted in a field where wheat and barley had grown for thirty years. The sun was warm and the volunteer wheat and barley sprang up and grew strong and tall as though not to be superseded by those interlopers. Presently the tops of the little trees were completely hidden, I could see one head of barley nod to another a rod away, and hear them say, "we'll show them what will grow here." All about the borders and through the fields the yellow poppies and purple lupin bloomed. Clumps of sweet elder sprang up as if by magic, making a beau-

tiful picture set in a framework of soft green hills, that I was never tired of looking at.

Sometimes when driving about I would meet a neighbor who would ask how my trees were getting on or compliment me on the fine crop of volunteer barley I was likely to get. Another would ask if I intended to plow this year. One said, "I suppose you know the barley would grow without the trees," and I thought I detected a latent sarcasm in his tone suggesting the query as to the converse of that proposition. Then I would look at my tall overseer who seemed in no hurry to commence plowing and stifle my momentary uneasiness. One day I overheard a man saying "look at that now, where are the trees, pretty expensive crop of barley, I think"—"well," was the reply—"what can you expect of a woman and a city woman at that?"

That night when all were sleeping, I walked in the bright moonlight along the road by the orchard or barley field—for by that time the question of supremacy was settled. It was no longer a question of faith in my tall overseer, but a lack of faith in myself. I must get a new man, but whom. Just then, an owl, far away, answering my anxious thought said, Oh—who—who. Another owl close by answered—Oh, you—you. I went into the house, and in the morning met my overseer as he was dragging his lazy length towards the breakfast table, and gently suggested that he should take a vacation. "Barkis was willing." While hunting for a man to fill his place I demonstrated the fact that I could do perfectly well without one.

I found there were many things I could do to further the work. I could not plow, but I could take the plow points for sharpening, and in that way save the time of a man and two horses. I became so accustomed to the jingling of plow points in my phaeton that I felt quite lost if I did not hear them. Once when there was a rush of work pruning, planting, etc., I was advised to roll a field of barley that was growing rank and tall. Just then a horse became sick, and the man who was driving the roller had to go to the hills to get another. I knew the horse he went for, and know it would be the work of time to catch her. The roller was a borrowed one. I had promised to return it that night; if the work was stopped I must break my word or let the barley go unrolled. I looked at my clean white wrapper, hesitated a moment and then mounted the roller. After I overcame my reluctance to crush down the broad green blades, I found it quite an easy thing to do. I confess as I approached the county road that bordered one side of the field I always scanned it closely. The roller went home that night and the barley was rolled.

Since then the little trees have become large and strong and for several years have been giving me an average of six hundred tons of fruit yearly. Some one here said women never measure by feet and yards, but by inches. It may be quite as difficult to estimate tons of fruit, and the quantity will be more easily comprehended if I say, let us suppose all the six hundred tons of fruit were packed fresh in boxes, as we do pack, and sent in refrigerator cars over the thousands of miles of mountain, desert and sea to the cities in the East and to London and Liverpool, they would require a train of fifty cars to carry them all. Part of the fruit was dried, and that sent fresh was sent at different times, but the six hundred tons would represent fifty carloads of fresh fruit. I have had many things to contend with, many mistakes to rectify and pay for, many amusing experiences which I may give you some day if you wish, but will say, taking all things into consideration, I think the woman orchardist has no more to contend with than those engaged in other pursuits, Even the pleasures of life are not unalloyed.

I am asked if I do not find the life monotonous. No. Each day brings some new interest. There is a great pepper tree near my house where two little Jerseys, Ursula and Phebe, were feeding, and where they stood and looked after me with great soft eyes as I bade them good-bye on leaving for town.

BEEKEEPING FOR WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA.

MRS. J. B. AMES.

ACTUAL experience has proved beekeeping to be a profitable as well as a healthful occupation for women in California. The ready market for comb and extracted honey removes all difficulties in disposing of the product of the busiest of all animals, and the mild climate permits the outdoor work necessary for the care of the bees during a long and pleasant season.

The woman who would keep bees, either to supply her household needs or with a view to earning a living, has but to understand and apply the two following very simple essentials to the profitable raising of bees. They are, first: that the animal life be properly nourished, and second: that Nature be so assisted by intelligent methods of keeping and reasonable care as to give best results to the keeper. But these essentials may be supplied here in California with a minimum expenditure of work and money. So many localities furnish abundant food for the bees that the question of feeding them is solved for the keeper, while by an intelligent selection of location and methods of handling the best results are easily obtained.

There being no winter problem in California it is not necessary to carry the bees with six months' supplies into the cellar. In colder climes the bees are "wintered" in cellars, where from Thanksgiving until the middle of April the hives are stored in cellars for protection, in spite of which, however, winter loss is common. A beekeeper in Wisconsin writes: "On April 12th I took out the last bees. From then till the 22d we had heavy frost and cold weather. On the 26th and 27th the weather is so unfavorable that one day they work and the next day they have to lay up again on account of high winds and cold." We in California have but to read this from an Eastern beekeeper to appreciate the advantages of California's wonderful climate for beekeeping. In fact it has been the writer's experience that the bees not only stay on the same stands but also gather nectar every month in the year, so that in the early spring they are in good condition to work and increase. All the work attendant upon the keeping of bees can thus be readily done by women and the prevailing wholesale prices of 10 cents per pound for comb and 5 cents for extracted honey yield a handsome profit to the industrious keeper.

That there is room and that there are abundant opportunities for engaging in beekeeping in California is shown by the present problem of disposing of the annual increase. And why should not women take up this industry since it is so pleasant and profitable an occupation for women? At present it is largely confined to farmers' wives and daughters, who already have many duties to perform, but the pleasant nature of the work bids fair to attract women who will be able to devote their attention and energies to developing the industry on a larger scale.

It is a well-known fact that honey-bees will select a home in a hollow tree and there not only attend to all their natural wants and provide for an increase, but also lay up a surplus store of honey. Climatic conditions in California are so favorable that it only remains for man to turn them to his benefit. Here there is no expense for feed for the bees feed themselves the year round. They not only feed themselves but also feed and care for their young, thus relieving the keeper of much care so that there is no need to interfere with the increase except at the swarming season, then to provide new homes for the new swarms, where they can thrive and work and produce that delicious food the value of which I trust will some day be fully realized by rich and poor alike.

Although California's output of honey in 1905 will be the largest in many years, it will be quite insufficient to meet the extraordinary demand caused by the short crop in other States. One State usually leading in honey production will produce hardly a fourth of a crop this year while another is nearer to a honey failure than it has been for twenty years. Here is women's opportunity in California to enter this profitable business, which has also always been to the writer a pleasant one.

ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S FINEST RANCHES—A WOMAN'S ENTERPRISE.

MRS. M. B. SHERMAN.

THE pleasures of life are full of simple happiness in the country, for there is leisure to enjoy nature, books and friends. The family are gathered closer together by the long evening without distractions to draw them from the fireside. Yes! How much affection the ranch affords. After the family, come the faithful animals, the horses that neigh at the sound of your footsteps, the cows that turn their soft eyes to see who is patting their sleek sides, and all the lesser ones that show affection for you. Sometimes after an absence from home it seems as though even the trees and flowers breathed forth a welcome.

In the year 1884 the failing health of my father brought the entire family to California for a permanent residence. Leaving Philadelphia, with its busy social life, and the opportunities of a city, the change to California was a happy one.

My father and mother, believing it best for girls to be independent, gave me some money to use as I thought best. After looking around for an investment that promised well, through the advice of a family friend I purchased a section of land five miles from Fresno, intending to sell it again when values increased. There was a new, but rather queerly built, house on the place. The land was raw and unimproved with the exception of ten acres of wine grapes, four acres of old vineyard of mixed varieties and thirty acres set to almond trees.

The warm dry air of the valley helped my father's lungs, so after a little time it was decided that the family should live in Fresno county for at least part of the year. But after a year of wheat planting the spirit of the neighborhood prevailed and a forty-acre muscat vineyard for raisin-making was planted. This was steadily added to until there were two hundred acres of muscats. Meanwhile Bartlett pear, olive and peach orchards followed and then a table-grape vineyard. The raisin-grape vineyard afforded sufficient revenue to carry the expenses of the young orchards until they themselves became profit-yielding.

When the family moved to Fresno, it was found impossible to purchase butter fit for table use and it was often unfit for cooking. Sending East for books, I took up butter-making and soon found that I had as well to study cows, stables, and the cleanliness of the dairy. The alfalfa taste which in some places is noticeable had to be kept out of the milk as it was impossible to remove it with any means I could command. This taint was conquered but had lead into the study of bacteriology as far as making cultures, to find where the control was needed, and of the cultivation of the bacteria essential to high flavor. The knowledge that we had good butter on our table quickly spread among friends and they begged for a roll or two a week.

I was thus carrying on butter-making on a small scale with the usual farm outfit when the need came for more money to carry out my larger plans and the surest source of income on the ranch proved to be the dairy. More cows were secured, a small separator and a Babcock test followed. As cows were scarce two carloads of Arizona nondescripts were purchased and milking-time for the next month or two was a Buffalo Bill show. The dairy proving a success, fifty head of registered Holstein yearlings were brought from the East, and a steam plant with large separator and power churn were added. This was the first alfalfa creamery and won the first gold medal ever given to alfalfa butter. The two hundred cows paid in seven years an average of $51.65 a year per cow.

With the registered cows came the fascinating study of breeding to increase excellence, to build constitution, and to eliminate weakness and defects. The success of this study has been shown in the results I attained, for in the third generation came Juliana De Kol, the World's prize milk and butter producing cow, which the California Promotion Committee

sent to the Buttermakers' Convention held in Chicago during the World's Fair. Fidessa, a winner at Sacramento for several years, and over twenty other cows with records of over twenty pounds of butter per week were bred here on my ranch.

Another success has been attained with table grapes. By careful selection the Emperor has been developed into a heavy bearing vine with large highly colored fruit in magnificent bunches. When these grapes were first shipped from the ranch the packing was done in Fresno, where the large bunches were cut up to fit small baskets, eight of which were put into a crate. Their value for table use was almost completely destroyed, so I opened a packing house at the ranch and by laying down the sides of the small baskets managed to pack the bunches uncut. The next season larger baskets were ordered and all the crate stock was ordered for single crates. Ribbons left from the previous season's raisin pack were used for decoration, and they sold at once for a dollar more a crate than the rest of the pack. Each year we pack with the same care and now after having heard that the large package was often more than a family cared to buy of high priced fruit, I tried one year sawing some crates in half, thus making a smaller package. This also sold well, so that we try to place in each car seventy-five half crates. The returns from the Emperor vineyard have always been good, ranging from $10,000 to $15,000 a year after freight refrigeration and packing material have been paid for. Like the care of the cows this has been a most interesting work, for in all life the same laws prevail, and if the grower does not constantly build up the strength and carefully select his vines and trees there will be only a minimum of success. Pedigree is as important in a plant as in an animal. In the vineyard fertilizing and pruning, spraying and clean cultivation put the vines in the best conditions for bearing. Quantity of fruit must give way to quality, for quantity makes pigs' feed, while quality makes money.

My olive orchard also has a pedigree, being only two generations from the trees of an old mission. We had a friend who grew the trees from cuttings from the bearing wood of his own orchard. At four years of age these trees bore a half crop and have not failed since. The olives are so large and fine that the first two sizes have been sold under a five years contract for $75.00 to $80.00 a ton f. o. b. Fresno. The smaller olives are pickled for local trade and oil is made that sells readily in the East in case lots among private customers.

These are successes, yet without a few failures they would be less sweet. The beautiful Bartlett pear orchard, just when at its best, and when the brand had built up a reputation for good packing and prices were increasing, the blight came. Though each winter, in hopes of saving at least a portion the blight was carefully removed under antiseptic conditions, yet each year the trees had more cut off than the summer growth renewed, until only pitiful stumps remained and these were finally cut up for fire wood. The second failure was the peach orchard. It bears well but "haste made waste" and the trees were foolishly bought, instead of being grown and budded to order. They were labeled as Early Crawfords, Muirs, and Orange Clings. How many varieties of peaches are cultivated I do not know. I feel sure, however, that I have every one of them in the forty acres.

Now, I have tried to tell you about a woman's experiences in ranching. I find ranch life full of joy. To all it is not given to create pictures on canvass or to enrich literature. These are special gifts. But who cannot plant a tree and make a picture against the sky? My memory calls up the picture of the Fresno plains of twenty years ago, covered with yellow stubble, the sun burning down and spirils of dust whirling up like dancing dervishes, the only motion in the tense stillness. To-day, my vines and trees spread a living green over these plains, the birds sing, and the cool sweet wind comes over the alfalfa fields when the cows are standing knee deep in the purple-tinted greenery.

Yes! it is a life worth living, for when the time comes to fold my hands in a quiet old age, how much sweeter will be the rest, for the struggle toward improvement has been with kindly nature and not with restless humanity.

How I Make Olive-Growing Pay.

MRS. FREDA BEHMANN

THE olive industry in the State of California may be rightly termed one of the most important of the many which this State has developed. Since the first trees were brought over from Spain by the Mission fathers and were planted in the southern part of the State, olive culture has traveled successfully to the northern part of the State and is today found as far north as Tehama County, 300 miles above San Francisco.

I wish to call attention to a mistake which is so often made by taking it for granted that the olive tree will grow anywhere and under any conditions. Experience has shown that the tree may grow, but the grower must not be surprised to find a small and undeveloped fruit as a result of poor soil and lack of irrigation and cultivation. Olive trees are planted 60 to the acre, and if large trees of good stock, say four years old, are planted, they will yield a good crop in five years. From smaller cuttings, however, you cannot expect a crop under seven years. It has been the writer's experience that wherever olive culture has not been a success, it was because of local conditions or lack of attention and special knowledge.

As it requires skill and experience to prepare the commercial olive by pickling, it is necessary for the grower to be located near a general pickling plant so as to dispose of the crop advantageously, in case one cannot or does not feel disposed to do one's own pickling. The demand for raw olives is constantly increasing, while the prices paid are from $40.00 to $75.00 per ton delivered at the factory. It can be readily seen that this is a lucrative branch of horticulture. When we consider that California is the only State in the Union where olives are grown successfully, it may easily be understood what an extentive market there is open for California olives and olive oil.

I would, however, advise the planting of the large Mission variety only. My varied experience with all varieties authorizes this statement. Other varieties may have large fruit, but are not as desirable for the purposes of pickling as the Mission olive, nor are the tree and the fruit as hardy, and oil from the Mission olive is considered by the trade to be the best and brings the highest price in the market. In former years the Redding picholine was considered the best olive for oil and was largely planted for that purpose, but by my advice to some of the growers, their trees of this variety have been grafted over to the Mission variety with the best of results. I may say the same of the Rubrins and other fancy varieties which are selected and planted from the catalogue without experience and knowledge of their commercial value both for pickles and for olive oil, and this, I might add, has been in a great measure the cause of some disappointment and dissatisfaction to olive growers.

At the present time packers should encourage the olive industry in California by paying the best possible price for olives, delivered or on the trees, as the acreage is not nearly sufficient to satisfy the demand of one large concern alone. The land in Yuba, Butte and Yolo counties is especially adapted to this industry and as the harvest of the olives comes at a time when the other farm work is over, there is ample time to give this fruit proper care in marketing it. Cheap land, plentiful water, favorable climatic conditions and a ready market combine to make California the best place on earth for the successful propagation of olives.

Any woman who feels inclined to pickle and prepare her own olives for the market, will always find ready sale for the California ripe olive, but I wish to repeat that by furnishing a poor olive to the trade the reputation of the California ripe olive is thereby exceedingly endangered. I have found in my own experience that the Eastern people who know and recognize a fine, well flavored California ripe olive, are ready and willing to buy, but where a poor olive has been placed upon the market, it is impossible to get these parties to give the California ripe olive another trial.

Within the last five years, California olive oil has come to the front and is to-day recognized as the best of the olive oils on the market. While the margin on pure olive oil is not as large as it deserves to be, there are

still encouraging results which invite the grower to increase her acreage as the making of oil uses all the small olives which otherwise would be rejected as pickles on account of their size.

In conclusion I would urge in the interest of the California olive industry the planting of the large Mission variety only, and if you have good soil and ready irrigation facilities and treat your olive orchard as you would any other orchard, namely fertilize and cultivate carefully, you will find that your efforts will be amply repaid. If you do prepare your own fruit and make olive oil from your own olives, make it a rule to furnish the very best as this will help to benefit this important industry and in the end assure you a better financial return.

A College Girl's Experience in Poultry Raising.

KATE ELLIOTT TROWBRIDGE

A YEAR ago last July I arrived in Glen Ellen a thin and tired out college girl. Since then I have gained muscle and strength that I never thought to have and have done more hard physical labor than I ever thought I would be able to stand. I have practically lived out in the open and though my arms, face and neck are brown as berries I have the satisfaction of knowing that I am stronger and healthier than any girl friend I have. I attribute it all to the out of doors work.

Our specialty is chicken raising, and while I have only had the incubator and incubator chicks to tend to, I can freely say that there is no part of chicken raising in California that a woman could not do. In fact, it is a business especially adapted to women, for it is light enough not to burden her, yet vigorous enough to give her strength and health. And, too, it consists mainly of small daily duties which women seem especially suited to perform successfully.

I say all this of chicken raising in California. California's climate is ideal when contrasted with that of the East. There is never a day in the winter when a woman, properly dressed, cannot tend to her duties in caring for the chickens. And there are very few days that even young chickens cannot be out doors part of the time. Last January I had a brood of chicks numbering 330, right in the midst of the longest continued bad weather we had and I think there was not more than a week altogether that they had to stay inside. And it was not an unusually good winter either.

Of course in the northern part of the State they have snow and in the central valleys it is very hot, but along the coast, especially counties immediately surrounding San Francisco, is a thriving chicken raising region. I think it is safe to say that the climate of this part of California cannot be rivalled for poultry raising by women, or any one else, as far as that is concerned, in any other part of the United States.

As I said before, I have had charge only of the incubator and the incubator chicks, but I see and know enough of the other greater parts of the work to be able to do them if I had to.

The preparing of foods and the feeding the hens are not hard if the dry feed system is used, though it takes constant thought and study. Each pen of hens is different from the others and each has to have its special treatment. Then the gathering and the packing of the eggs is no small item of work though it is an easy and pleasant occupation for women.

But the most interesting part of all is the caring for the baby chickens. Both the incubator, when it is running, and the chicks need constant attention. Though unceasing the care of the chicks is, for the most part, easy and thoroughly congenial, to me at least. The cleaning the brooders and brooder house is not pleasant, but it is not nearly so disagreeable and hard as I at first thought it would be.

Besides the actual caring for the chickens it is almost necessary for the successful outcome of the business to have a garden. Green food is absolutely essential to the best development of chickens and there is nothing so good for a woman as gardening. It rivals all the gymnasium exercises one could take. So taking it altogether I can, with a perfectly free conscience, advise any woman who wants an independent, profitable and healthy occupation to go into chicken raising in California.

Silk Culture--Its Great Future For Women in This State.

MRS. CARRIE WILLIAMS.

THAT women can carry on silk production to its fullest extent in California, has been demonstrated beyond all dispute within the past few years. The necessary requirements for this are all to be found in superabundance in our great golden State.

Our soil is varied and of the richest character. Its depth in the valleys and its strength in the mountains and foothills is unsurpassed in any clime.

Silk of the very best quality may be produced in every county in this State with as little, indeed with less labor or expense than is the case in China, Japan, or any of the European countries whence we import this world-wide commodity of every-day use. The silk season in the northern and middle counties of the State can be made as long as in most foreign countries, while in the southern counties, especially in San Diego County, it may be extended to eight or nine months of the year. That silk can be produced during this long period stands recorded as a fact demonstrated for years past.

By careful pruning, planting of cuttings, cultivation and a moderate amount of irrigation the different kinds of mulberry tree best suited bear foliage for nine months to a year.

There is no scale or pest indigenous to the mulberry tree and they grow as much in California in one year as they do in Europe or Asia in three. Our virgin soil coupled with the generally diffused scientific knowledge of our people how to suppress that which is not best and supply that which is lacking, gives us a distinct advantage as to the possibilities that may be attained in the development of this grand industry. With all these things and very many more that cannot be presented in one short article the question naturally arises, "Why is not silk-producing a success in this country?" The sole and only reason is because it has never been judged aright. Time and again people wholly unacquainted with the business, have rushed into it hoping for large returns from small investments and others with reasonable investments have been disappointed in not reaping unreasonable profits.

Within the last decade the number of silk factories in the United States has multiplied fifty per cent, so that while less than thirty years ago, we as a nation, manufactured only fifteen per cent of our own silks, now we send out from these many looms eighty-seven per cent of all the silk worn in the United States. And, these manufacturers pay to their employes twice as much as they do in England, three times what they do in France, three and a quarter what they do in Italy, and probably twenty times as much as they do in China and Japan.

There is no special advantage in this country for the manufacture of silk and yet the silk manufacturers accumulate and retire on as ample fortunes and in as short or even shorter time, than any class of business men in this country. Why is this? What is the cause underlying effect? To keep these factories going there is every year imported $50,000,000 worth of what is invoiced as raw silk though it is not raw but twenty-five per cent manufactured. There is no duty on raw material. On manufactured silks there is a duty of sixty per cent. Upon reeled silk there should be about one-fourth of this duty. It is not difficult to see that fifteen per cent of $50,000,000 is lost to the revenue of the country and adds to the profits of the silk manufacturers. The government officials seem to wink at this fact and pass on to other matters year after year, while the general public do not stop to think or to investigate where the wrong lies.

The government through the Agricultural Department has been for many years making a grave mistake in not taking the proper steps to educate the people in this industry. There is not one school or college

in the United States devoted to the giving of thorough instruction in this world-wide industry. All other silk-producing nations seek by every means to give instruction in the art of raising silk worms. Not only is there no college set apart for instruction in this industry, but there is not a chair in any university throughout the whole country given up to this work. Neither are the rudiments taught in the schools, nor are they to be had in the libraries. Mention is made of the industry in the encyclopedias, but such information is mostly misleading as might be shown if space permitted.

What is required to establish the silk business on a solid paying basis in the United States with headquarters in California is the establishment of a station or school of instruction in every locality where mulberry trees flourish and the silk worm can be raised. At these stations mulberry trees should be propagated and cuttings and young trees should be given free of charge to those who want to engage in this industry. Competent persons should be appointed to teach young men, women and children the entire routine of silk worm raising from the egg to the egg again. Literature should be written from a practical point of view in this country and distributed to all interested. This State will undoubtedly soon take hold of this question and bring before the Department of Agriculture the advisability of taking steps to set the silk industry in motion throughout this country where conditions are so favorable for establishing it. When this is done companies will be organized with capital and efficient managers who understand the requirements of the work and who will see the special advantages we Americans possess to carry out this enterprise that will unquestionably result in benefit to the people at large.

Women who are now entering all the avenues of business can take up the production of silk and if they combine the manufacture of the same the profits are in proportion to the investments. From one to five acres at least should be given to this work. The trees should be of the best varieties and must be properly cared for. Persons undertaking to raise silk worms should understand their nature and how to treat them. This knowledge is within the grasp of any woman in our favored land. What China, Japan, France, Italy, Syria and other smaller countries can accomplish we can do and do better if we give it our best efforts.

We have all the essentials within our borders. Let us awake and show to the world that we can produce our own silk as well as our own cotton.

Why the California Girl Excels in Size and Strength.

PROF. W. E. MAGEE, Director of Physical Culture, University of California.

THE most comprehensive and trustworthy statistics yet published relating to the general physique of Eastern college women, are from Wellesley College. Comparing the measurements of the average University of California girl student, with those taken at Wellesley, we find that the native California girl surpasses her Eastern sister in the matter of general symmetrical development

It has been proved by statistics of native-born California girls of the age of those who attend the large private schools and seminaries throughout this State, that the California child is not only taller but heavier and stronger, than the Eastern child of the same age.

A study of measurements taken under my supervision of children attending the above mentioned schools, shows that the native-born girls average better than those attending the same schools but born elsewhere, while all show better measurements than girls of the same age attending the same class of schools and seminaries in the Eastern part of this country. So it is not surprising that California girls of more mature age should maintain their superiority.

Of the many reasons that are ascribed for this difference, it is agreed that the climate is more responsible than any other factor in bringing

about these results. The growing animal is as sensitive as the growing plant to climatic conditions and changes. The extreme cold of the East has undoubtedly the effect of checking the growth of the people there, just as it does the growth of the vegetable world. The mild winters of California allow the growth to continue uninterruptedly all the year around. While in the interior the extreme summer heat would seem somewhat severe, the coolness of the nights provide that season of rest which is absolutely essential to the health of the growing girl.

A very important reason depending directly on the climate is that California girls indulge in much more outdoor exercise than those of the Eastern States. In no other place in the world do girls habitually take such delight in real mountain climbing and camping as in California. The practical results of this health-giving exercise is shown by a glance at the anthropometric table; for the tests show that California girls have nearly twice the leg strength that the Eastern girls have. The Wellesley girl's strength is rated at 200.6 pounds; that of the California girl at 341.6 pounds.

There is one striking feature of the measurements in which the California girls exceed both the standard and the average Eastern girl which may have an influence in bringing up the other points of her development. The Raphael standard women would have a lung capacity of 159.8 cubic inches, her height being five feet five inches. The California girl whose average height is nearly two inches less, has a lung capacity of precisely the same volume—which is about ten cubic inches more than the lung capacity of the Wellesley girl. This greater lung capacity can but mean a greater and purer supply of blood under given conditions, and a consequent greater physical growth in the girl having it.

Another influence bearing on the greater size of California girls is the question of racial and hereditary tendencies. The pioneers of early days were men and women of strength and courage. A large number of them came from the Southern States. They were, as is well known, a large and full-blooded race, and have undoubtedly transmitted these characteristics to their descendants.

The following table, showing the average measurements of University of California girls compared with Wellesley, Mass., College girls, though usually given in the metric system of measurements, is here given in the English system for the sake of clearness:

University of Cal.		Wellesley College.
	Age.	
19.1 years		19.1 years
	Weight.	
119.7 pounds		119.4 pounds.
Inches.	Height.	Inches.
63.5	Standing	63.2
33.1	Sitting	33.3
Inches.	Girths.	Inches.
12.4	Neck	12.2
30.6	Chest, repose	28.8
33.1	Chest, inflated	31.4
25	9th rib, repose	24.6
28.1	9th rib, inflated	27.2
24.2	Waist	24.6
37.6	Hips	35.2
11.4	Right upper arm	10.6
11.3	Left upper arm	10.4
9.1	Right fore arm	9.6
9	Left fore arm	8.5
21.4	Right thigh	21.6
21.3	Left thigh	21.6

University of Cal.		Wellesley College.
Inches.	Girths.	Inches.
13.8	Right calf	13.3
13.6	Left calf	13.3
Inches.	Depth.	Inches.
6.9	Chest	7.2
6.8	Abdomen	7.3
Inches.	Breadth.	Inches.
4.3	Neck	4
14.8	Shoulders	14.3
8.7	Waist	8.7
12.9	Hips	12.8
Pounds.	Strength.	Pounds.
178.5	Back	130
341.6	Legs	200.6
72.7	Right forearm	57.3
61.7	Left forearm	48.5
61.7	Strength of chest	57.3
Cubic inches.		Cubic inches.
159.8	Lung capacity	150.3
Inches.		Inches.
63.8	Arms extended	63.8

GROWING THE NEW EVERBEARING CRIMSON WINTER RHUBARB.

AN INVITING INDUSTRY FOR WOMEN.

MRS. THEODOSIA B. SHEPHERD.

THE most valuable acquisition to the horticultural world in many years is the new everbearing crimson winter rhubarb, tested, introduced and recommended by Luther Burbank. It promises to become the most profitable thing the soil produces. Its superiority in every way to the old deciduous rhubarb makes it by far the most desirable variety worth growing in California.

This new prodigy of the soil is ever-bearing, requires no stringing, has a mild acid taste combined with a delicious berry-like flavor, and when properly cooked its sauce is a most beautiful bright strawberry red. There is no fruit offered in the market which when stewed excels it, either in delicacy of flavor or in beauty. It is easily grown and comes into bearing the first year, paying all the expense of plants and cultivation, picking, packing, etc., and a handsome profit besides; while the following years the profit is enormous. From a little over three-quarters of an acre last year the writer gathered and shipped seven tons of stems from January 10th to July 10th, at which last date the plants were seventeen months old. We received 4 1-2c to 5c per pound. A much better price could have been realized if we had sought a market outside the State where winter prevails during the height of this fruit's season.

This rhubarb is very easily grown. The roots instead of being chunky like the old variety are long like the parsnip and grow from 12 to 18 inches in length. Young plants about the size of a penholder set out even as late as July, if properly cared for and cultivated, will come into bearing by Christmas. The plants usually send forth from six to ten crowns, but frequently make many more, and as fast as the stems are pulled others take their places. They are at their best from October till June.

Although the plant is everbearing it is well to give it a rest during midsummer if a heavy crop is desired during the fall and winter. The stems can be used at all seasons, and the sauce, like that of the apple, possesses the great merit of being always welcome, having a peculiar flavor of which one never tires. It can be used as a standby at all seasons of the year. A fruit so highly appreciated in a country like California, where fruits are abundant at all seasons must be hailed with delight in those regions where winter reigns many months in the year, and where the delicious products of California's sun-kissed orchards are hailed as welcome visitors.

Crimson winter rhubarb will grow in any good rich soil and requires no fertilizer. It takes from 3,000 to 4,000 plants to the acre, and after becoming established requires water but three or four times during the dry season. To make a success of this plant financially it should be grown in such quantities that it can be shipped by the carload. There is not only the home market to be supplied, but the shipping market is always hungry and can be relied upon as a regular outlet for an immense product. The cultivation of this new wealth producer is an occupation in which any intelligent energetic woman can succeed, and I hope in the near future that women, realizing the handsome profits and healthful work connected with its cultivation will be leading in the industry and growing hundreds of acres of this rhubarb. I know of no product the ground can produce that will yield greater profit with less labor and in a shorter period than crimson winter rhubarb.

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